

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

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CINCUSAFE LINDSEY AS GERMANY/INCF

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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TAGS: PINT, MILI, PO

SUBJ: COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF AFM URGES CONTINUATION AND
ACCELERATION OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS IN PORTUGAL

SUMMARY: IN RARE PRESS CONFERENCE AFM PROGRAM COORDINATING
COMMITTEE CALLED FOR FLEXIBLE INTERPRETATION OF AFM PROGRAM
TO AVOID STAGNATION OF REVOLUTION NOW IN PROCESS, AND URGED
ACCELERATION OF PURGE OF NATION'S "VICIOUS AND CORRUPT"
STRUCTURES. ACTION PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY AFM COORDINATING
COMMITTEE DEFINED AS REVOLUTIONARY HUMANISM. TIMING OF PRESS
CONFERENCE DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE IMPORTANT DECISIONS NOW UNDER
CONSIDERATION IN AFM AND GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PROGRAM COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF ARMED FORCES

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MOVEMENT (CCP) HELD A RARE PRESS CONFERENCE IN LISBON DEC 31

ANSWERING WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE REGARDING VARIOUS ASPECTS ON CURRENT POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND ECONOMIC SITUATION. PARTICIPATING WERE LT. JUDAS, CAPT. VASCO LOURENCO, MAJ. CANTO E CASTRO, LT. COL. CHARAIS, CDR. ALMADA CONTREIRAS, CAPT. PINTO SOARES AND MAJ. PEREIRA PINTO. JUDGING FROM NATURE OF ANSWERS GIVEN, THE CCP REMAINS THAT PART OF AFM STRUCTURE MOST COMMITTED TO NON-PARTISAN REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE IN PORTUGUESE SOCIETY. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, WHICH SPOKESMEN CAUTIONED REPRESENTED NOT PERSONAL OPINIONS OF MEMBERS BUT COLLECTIVE VIEW OF CCP, THE CCP URGED THAT AFM PROGRAM BE VIEWED NOT AS SET OF RIGID CONCEPTS BUT DYNAMICALLY AND IN TERMS OF SPIRIT, NOT LETTER, MANIFEST IN IT. A FORMAL, STRICT INTERPRETATION OF PROGRAM, WARNED AFM, WILL LEAD TO STAGNATION OF REVOLUTION IN PROCESS.

2. AFM MADE KNOWN ITS DEFENSE OF AN INTERPRETATION OF PROGRAM IN SPIRIT OF "REVOLUTIONARY HUMANISM" AND URGED RAPID ACCELERATION OF PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION OF STRUCTURES AND CLEARER DEFINITION OF NATION'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES SO THAT ACTION PROGRAMS TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME CAN BE INSTITUTED. SUCH A DEFINITION OF OPTIONS PRESUPPOSES, IN VIEW OF AFM, A RAPID REFORMATION AND PURGE OF PRESENT "VICIOUS AND CORRUPT" SOCIETAL STRUCTURES. TO CONSIDER SUCH A REFORMULATION AND PURGE "A DEEP REFORM" (WHICH AFM PROGRAM DOES NOT PERMIT AFM TO UNDERTAKE) IN ITS OPINION MEANS THAT AFM COMPLETELY BLOCKED FROM PURSUING FURTHER SIGNIFICANT REFORMS. (COMMENT: THOSE IN AFM OPPOSED TO KIND AND SCOPE OF CHANGE ADVOCATED BY CCP ARE CALLING FOR A STRICT AND LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF AFM PROGRAM. THEY SEEM TO HAVE UPPER HAND FOR MOMENT IN INTRA-AFM DISPUTE, AND ARE MAKING THEIR WEIGHT FELT BOTH IN SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF MOVEMENT (COMMITTEE OF 20) AND AT BASE LEVELS OF AFM HIERARCHY.)

3. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE AFM FLATLY STATED THAT NO THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN NOR WOULD BE IN FUTURE TO ABOLISHMENT OF AFM. IT WILL NOT GIVE UP RESPONSIBILITIES ASSUMED AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL PROGRESSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES. FORM OF AFM INTERVENTION IN FUTURE POLITICAL LIFE AND IN WORK OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY NOT YET DECIDED, BUT UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION AT BASE LEVELS OF AFM STRUCTURE. HOWEVER, AFM WILL PLAY A VIGILANT, ACTIVE ROLE IN FUTURE LIFE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF NATION. "OUR ACTIONS SHOULD MAINTAIN A REVOLUTIONARY COHERENCE IN ORDER TO BE MORE THAN A SIMPLE MILITARY REVOLT. THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION OCCURRED TO RESOLVE THE CONTRADICTIONS IN OUR SOCIETY." IT IS NECESSARY TO PASS TRULY REVOLUTIONARY LEGISLATION.

4. ONE JOURNALIST WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER AFM SUPPORTED CAPITALISM OR SOCIALISM. REPLY WAS THAT AFM ON SIDE OF NEITHER

SINCE IT NOT THEIR TASK TO IMPOSE A CHOICE ON PEOPLE. PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN FUTURE. HOWEVER, PATH CHARTED BY AFM ENVISIONS GREATER SOCIALIZATION. CAPITAL MUST COOPERATE OR ELSE SOCIALIZATION WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO SOCIALISM.

5. COMMENT: PRESS CONFERENCE HELD FEW DAYS BEFORE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF ARMED FORCES SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS MOTION APPROVED DEC 28 BY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES CALLING FOR GREATER CLARIFICATION OF FUTURE ACTION PROGRAM OF AFM. FURTHERMORE, CABINET AND THE VARIOUS LEVELS IN AFM HIERARCHY BEGINNING TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS OF 3-YEAR GOVERNMENTAL ECONOMIC PLAN. TIMING OF PRESS CONFERENCE AND CALL FOR CONTINUING AND ACCELERATING CHANGE DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE AFM AND CABINET VOTING ON THESE ISSUES. COORDINATING COMMITTEE, AS ON MANY OCCASIONS IN PAST, SERVING AS MOTOR OF REVOLUTION IN ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY IN ARMED FORCES OF NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGE. SOME VIEW INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF AFM AND CREATION OF ELABORATE AFM HIERARCHICAL SUPERSTRUCTURE AS DISGUISED ATTEMPT BY CONSERVATIVES IN MILITARY TO CIRCUMSCRIBE AND DILUTE POWER OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE UNDER GUISE OF DEMOCRATIZATION OF MOVEMENT. (SPINOLA HIMSELF URGED COMPLETE INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND DEMOCRATIZATION OF AFM IN EXPRESSO INTERVIEW JANUARY 4, NOTING THAT ONLY IN THIS WAY WILL NATION BE PROTECTED FROM POLITICAL POWER OF SMALL MILITARY ELITE.)
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